

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Item of footwear ~~(1), in particular a motorcycle boot, comprising:~~

a rigid shell ~~[(4)]~~ which is produced from a first material and which defines a body which is intended to surround the foot of a user, the body having a lower portion ~~[(20)]~~ which forms a sole, an upper portion ~~[(22)]~~ which forms a vamp, an inner lateral portion ~~[(21)]~~ and an outer lateral portion ~~[(23)]~~, said lateral portions connecting the lower portion ~~[(20)]~~ and the upper portion ~~[(22)]~~, these four portions extending in an extension direction ~~[(6)]~~ between a first zone which forms a heel ~~[(8)]~~ and a second zone which forms a tip ; and ~~(10)~~, said item having

an opening ~~(16, 18)~~ defined in only one of ~~[the]~~ said four portions of the body, said opening extending through the rigid shell and being closed by means of a flexible pad ~~(12, 14)~~ which is produced from a second material, said second material being more flexible than the first material.

2. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that the opening ~~(16, 18)~~ is provided with spacing from the ends ~~(24, 26)~~ of the body in the extension direction.

3. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the opening ~~[(16)]~~ is

provided in a zone of the lower portion [[(20)]] which serves to support the sole of the foot of the user.

4. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening [[(16)]] extends transversely to the direction of extension [[(6)]] over less than half the width of the item of footwear.

5. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad [[(12)]] extends in a recessed manner relative to the rigid shell [[(5)]].

6. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening [[(18)]] is provided in the upper portion [[(22)]].

7. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening [[(18)]] is provided substantially at the centre of the upper portion [[(22)]] relative to the extension direction.

8. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

9. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad {12, 14} has a hardness of between 60 and 80 Shore.

10. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ it comprises further comprising another rigid shell which defines an upper [[(4)]] which is intended for

receiving the leg of the user and means [[(30)]] for articulating the upper relative to the body.

11. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the opening [[(16)]] is provided in a zone of the lower portion [[(20)]] which serves to support the sole of the foot of the user.

12. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pad [[(12)]] extends in a recessed manner relative to the rigid shell [[(5)]].

13. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ the further comprising another opening +18 is provided in the upper portion [[(22)]].

14. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ the further comprising another opening [[(18)]] is provided in the upper portion [[(22)]].

15. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ the further comprising another opening +18 is provided in the upper portion [[(22)]].

16. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

17. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second material.

18. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness  
which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second  
material.

19. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness  
which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second  
material.

20. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 6,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first material has a hardness  
which is at least 20% greater than the hardness of the second  
material.